

By: Overview and Scrutiny Manager

To: Environment and Regeneration Policy Overview Committee  
3 July 2007

Subject: **SELECT COMMITTEES - UPDATE**

Classification: Unrestricted

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Summary: This report updates Members on the newly appointed Select Committee on Flood Risk and the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

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Recommendations:

The Committee is asked to:-

- (a) Authorise the Overview and Scrutiny Manager to liaise with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Liberal Democrat spokesman of this Committee on the draft Terms of Reference for the Topic Review on Flood Risk; and
  - (b) Note the update on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.
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## Introduction

1. The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee met on 7 June 2007 to give further consideration to Topics for potential inclusion in the Topic Review Work Programme and to agree the Topic to be reviewed during the period Autumn 2007 and Spring 2008.

### Existing Topic Put forward by this Committee included in the Programme

2. Members will recall that this Committee put forward the topic ***Impact of Supermarkets and Shopping Malls***, which has been in the programme for some time. The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committees view was that the opportunity to undertake a useful piece of work on this topic had past and therefore it was agreed to withdraw this topic from the programme.

### Select Committee Topic Review Programme Autumn 2007 to Spring 2008

3. In relation to the next phase of the Select Committee topic review programme due to start in Autumn 2007 to Spring 2008 it was agreed that the two topics to be reviewed would be Access to Democracy (with particular emphasis on individual/groups who are difficult to engage in society) and Vulnerable Children (which will come under the Corporate Policy Overview Committee and the Children and Families Policy Overview Committee respectively).

### **Select Committee: Flood Risk**

4. The Policy Overview Co-ordinating Committee also agreed to a short Select Committee being established immediately and reporting by the end of September 2007 on Flood Risk. This piece of work will build on the work undertaken by a Select Committee following the flooding in the Winter of 2000/1.

5. I have not yet had the opportunity to fully investigate the scope for this review and develop its proposed terms of reference. Clearly, as it will be this Policy Overview Committee that will have the oversight of this review, I will want the opportunity shortly to share the proposed Terms of Reference informally with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Liberal Democrat spokesmen of this Committee. I seek the Committees delegated authority to do this.

### **Recommendations**

6. The Committee is asked to:-

- (a) authorise the Overview and Scrutiny Manager to liaise with the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Liberal Democrat spokesman of this Committee on the draft Terms of Reference for the Topic Review on Flood Risk; and
- (b) note the update on the Select Committee Topic Review Work Programme.

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Background Information: *Nil*